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**CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT**

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**Administrative County of Cambridgeshire**



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**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**Including Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector**

for

**1951**




CHESTERTON, NEWMARKET and SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS

*With the Compliments of  
the Medical Officer of Health*

SHIRE HALL,  
CASTLE HILL,  
CAMBRIDGE.





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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area: Land - 111,692 acres

Number of Parishes: 53

Rateable Value: (1.4.52) £149,152

Sum represented by a penny rate: £582

Number of inhabited houses according  
to the Rate Books: 11,755

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 39,060

Census Population 1951: 38,646

The district is agricultural and the main occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing and jam making.

Birth Rate	15.3
(Corrected)	16.0
Death Rate	12.3
(Corrected)	10.5
Infant Mortality Rate.	20.1

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - Councillor F.W. Flinders

Vice CHAIRMAN - Councillor H.K. Stroude

COUNCILLORS

Adams F.

Barker R.

Bavester L.M.

Buchanan W.M.

Cheason A.M. *MRS*

Lt. Col.H.W. Clayden

Cole C.W.H.

Cundell A.

Currington H.G.

Dickerson A.W.

Fry H.F.

Hayhow A.

Heath C.

Hibbett H.

Capt. F. Johnson

Law W.H.

Macfarlane-Grieve G.M.

Major Gen. T.C. Newton

Norman C.A.

Pease M.S.

Peel-Yates Mrs M.

Lady Tansley

Thulborn R.W.

Tinker H.

Waddelow H.G.

Walkling E.J.

Watson J.G.

Wilkin S.W.

Wordingham S.L.C.



To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Chesterton Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 42/51 dated 10th December, 1951.

The year was marked by the taking of the Census on April 8th, 1951, and the Preliminary Report of the Registrar General shows that the population of the district was then 38,646 persons. Twenty years have passed since the last census was held. The year under review ushers in the second half of the 20th century and I have thought it appropriate to review some aspects of the health of the district in the first half of the century and the latter part of the 19th century, reports of my predecessors being available from 1887 to the present day.

This report includes, therefore, a study of the year's activities, a short review of some aspects of the district's health in past decades and the observations of the Chief Sanitary Inspector upon the sanitary circumstances of the area.

The health of the district has been satisfactory and the vital statistics do not call for any particular comment. It should be remembered that when working with small numbers the ratios calculated are liable to exhibit rather wide variations from year to year and comparisons are better derived from study of the actual figures. The recent reintroduction by the Registrar General of the comparability factor allows for correction of the birth and death rates to enable comparisons with other areas to be made. Uncorrected ratios are, however, used for comparisons in different years in the same area.

Elsewhere in the report the district's experience with regard to infectious disease is discussed.

With regard to the sanitary circumstances of the area it has again been a very busy year. The importance of environmental hygiene cannot be too strongly emphasised and the volume of work which has been undertaken during the year toward raising further the standards of hygiene in this large district is commendable. The work of the department must be closely allied to that of other principal departments, particularly housing, water supplies and sewerage. In view of the wide range of statutory duties imposed upon the authority and having in mind the size of the department ( a chief



sanitary inspector and two district inspectors) which has been unchanged for 16 years, it is becoming apparent that all aspects of the work cannot, in any one year, receive the same amount of detailed attention. Therefore, during 1951, particular stress was laid upon water and milk supplies.

With the substantial increase in the distribution of piped water supplies throughout the area it was deemed advisable to carry out extensive sampling of the five main systems. That this work has been amply justified will be seen in the section of the report dealing with water. The fact that the well belonging to the Willingham Water Company was found to be contaminated was unfortunate. The following extract from the Medical Officer of Health's report for 1912 is of interest. "The private Company (Willingham Water Company) mentioned in last year's report has been formed for the purpose of carrying out works of water supply for this parish. A well has been sunk in the gravel outside the village 22 feet deep, the first 15 feet being steined with nine-inch brickwork in cement, and having an internal diameter of 10 feet, the next 7 feet being dry steined with nine-inch brickwork, and has an internal diameter of eight feet. An iron tank, having a capacity of 13,000 gallons, on a brick tower 51 feet 6 inches high, into which the water is raised by means of a  $6\frac{1}{2}$  b.h.p. oil engine, has been provided, and the water is conveyed to 40 stand-pipes in the village by means of 5,409 yards of mains; 2,562 yards of 4 inch, 1,817 yards of 3 inch, and 1,030 yards of 2 inch. The supply was available for use on 24th December, 1912".

This private company has amply supplied the needs of Willingham since 1912 and has rendered a most valuable service to the parish for nearly 40 years.

Satisfactory samples of this water have been obtained at intervals over the years until this year, when a series of unsatisfactory samples were obtained which showed contamination of the water by organisms of faecal origin. A water supply drawn from a gravel source of a shallow nature can never be free from the potential risk of contamination. Though it has not been possible to determine exactly the reason for this sudden deterioration, many factors no doubt have combined in producing the result. It is to be noted that the well is situated in a field used for agricultural purposes and that the storage tank was uncovered during the year and the covering was not replaced.

Consultations between the Company and your officers took place and as a temporary measure drip chlorination into the well was instituted as being the only means of protecting the supply at this juncture. Arising out of the consultations it has been decided that negotiations between the Company and the Council should be



opened with a view to purchasing the waterworks. Pending the outcome of these discussions an improved chlorination system has been installed by your engineer. Since the introduction of temporary chlorination samples from all parts of the Company's system have become satisfactory. The present method of protecting the supply cannot be regarded as a satisfactory long term method and it is probable that eventually filtration of the water followed by chlorination will be necessary which will entail some alteration of the existing works.

In the section on tuberculosis the importance of ensuring that milk supplies are clean and safe is stressed, particular reference being made to milk borne infections. Since the responsibility for the supervision of milk production on farms has been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture, the department's efforts have been directed to ensuring that the milk supplied to consumers in the area, including school children, is free from harmful infection. There is no doubt that the value of the work and the results achieved during the year serve to indicate the necessity for keen vigilance in this respect. The Public Health Laboratory Service undertook the examination of the samples taken in the water and milk investigations and I wish to record my thanks for the help and advice that has been so freely given.

The major problem in the area is still that of housing. Whilst new houses are being constructed as quickly as possible, the number of families remaining in sub-standard (and totally unfit) accommodation is a source of real concern. Efforts to secure the repair of unfit properties are still severely handicapped by the retention of the Rent Restrictions Acts which no longer permit the property owners an economic return on their expenditure. The rapid deterioration of small cottage properties which might otherwise be saved is a source of anxiety.

The continued occupation of the huts on disused aerodrome sites remains an unfortunate necessity. Despite the strides made in house construction a considerable need still exists and the fact that these huts are in many instances rapidly deteriorating lends force to the importance and urgency of the housing programme. These huts were never constructed with a view to permanent occupation nor do they constitute in the majority of cases suitable habitations. The fabric of a great number is reaching a state of disrepair and to keep them even reasonably weather proof is an uneconomical proposition. The Council's attention is earnestly drawn to the formulation of a programme whereby, in the near future, these sites can be treated on a 'running down basis' and eventually be dispensed with.



The construction of houses on land which is in the main quite flat and having a high water table presents numerous difficulties, not the least being the question of satisfactory sewage and waste water disposal. On the grounds of expediency, use has been made of septic tanks on a number of sites but they have not been found to be efficient units owing to the difficulties of the terrain and absorb much time, labour and expense in maintenance. The Council is advised to give serious consideration to the construction of proper sewage disposal works on its housing estates. It is most gratifying to record elsewhere in this report the progress made in the sewerage schemes. The proper disposal of sewage and waste water is a matter of great public health importance.

Other aspects of the department's work have by no means been neglected. Public Cleansing, providing as it does, a refuse collection throughout the 53 villages in the area, a cesspool emptying service and some night soil collection is a source of satisfaction, although a high proportion of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's time is spent upon its administration. As much time as possible has been devoted to food hygiene and excellent co-operation from the various trades concerned is obtained. The enforcement of the new Food Byelaws has not received all the attention desirable and it is hoped to remedy this in the coming year. The establishment of a sound pest control service is also a source of satisfaction.

I am,

Yours obediently,

P.A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.



# VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations).

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	306	269	575
Illegitimate	9	13	22
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	315	282	597
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per thousand estimated population	15.3
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.05)	16.0
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	15.5

<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5	6	11
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	6	6	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per thousand live and still births	19.7
Rate per thousand estimated population	0.31
Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	0.36

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	245	234	479

Death rate per thousand estimated population	12.3
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.86)	10.5
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	12.5

## INFANT MORTALITY      Death of infants under one year of age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	7(5)	5 (2)	12 (7)
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	7	5	12 (7)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets)

Infant Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	20.1
Infant Mortality Rate. (England and Wales)	29.6
Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infants under four weeks per thousand live births)	11.7
Legitimate Infants per thousand legitimate live births.	20.9
Illegitimate Infants per thousand illegitimate live births.	Nil
Maternal Mortality. (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	91
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	
Pulmonary        9 Male    1 Female	10
Non-Pulmonary    1 Male    - Female	1
Deaths from whooping cough	Nil
Deaths from measles	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	11
Deaths from influenza	23
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil



CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
+ BIRTH RATE	19.2	18.9	17.2	15.2	15.8	15.3
+ DEATH RATE	11.4	13.9	9.8	12.3	10.9	12.3
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	39.9	33.7	18.0	25.1	19.9	20.1
	(26)	(22)	(11)	(14)	(12)	(12)

+ The above rates are uncorrected so that they are comparable from year to year. The figures in brackets are the numbers of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

<u>Ages</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	7	5	12
1 and under 2	-	-	-
2 and under 5	1	-	1
5 and under 15	1	1	2
15 and under 25	5	1	6
25 and under 35	5	4	9
35 and under 45	9	5	14
45 and under 55	15	13	28
55 and under 65	32	18	50
65 and under 75	61	47	108
75 and over	109	140	249
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals:	245	234	479
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

After Dr. A. Morgan's retirement on September 30th, 1950 the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils held discussions with the Cambridgeshire County Council and the Ministry of Health concerning the filling of the vacancy thus created by means of a 'mixed appointment'.

It was decided that a medical officer should be appointed to act as medical officer of health for the three Rural District Councils for six elevenths of his time and as deputy county medical officer of health and deputy school medical officer for the remaining five elevenths. For the former appointment "The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951" has been made.

I commenced duties for this mixed appointment on July 23rd, 1951.

### SANITARY INSPECTORS

Three whole time inspectors are employed.

E. B. NEWMAN, A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

N. D. ADDISON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

E. V. BEEBY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

### HOSPITALS

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Cambridge City Isolation Hospital. So far as general hospitals are concerned, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, deals with the majority of cases from this area. The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of tuberculosis in connection with Papworth Colony.



1887 - 1951

SOME ASPECTS OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

The earliest annual report of the medical officer of health to be found in the department is that of 1887. From then until today the annual reports of my predecessors are available. The wealth of detail to be found in these reports, properly examined, would make a lengthy but interesting report. In order to mark the half century, certain aspects of the public health as portrayed in these documents are commented upon this year and in the following years, where appropriate, the history and background of some of the services for which the Council is responsible will be reviewed.

The Chesterton Rural District has experienced several boundary changes during the years under review. I am indebted to the County Planning Officer for assistance in summarising the changes which have taken place. Small alterations in parish boundaries occurred in 1904 and 1912 but were not large enough to be of significance to population trends. In 1912 a larger change took place involving the obliteration of the Chesterton Urban District which was absorbed by the borough of Cambridge except for Milton. Parts of Cherryhinton, Grantchester and Trumpington also were transferred to the borough. In 1934 further changes took place, firstly the whole of the parish of Cherryhinton and parts of the parishes of Fen Ditton, Gt. Shelford, Impington, Milton and Trumpington were transferred to the borough. The remainder of the parish of Trumpington was transferred to Grantchester and Haslingfield. Secondly the six rural districts in the county were reduced to three by the Cambridgeshire (Rural Areas) Review Order 1934. Chesterton Rural District was augmented by the whole of the Swavesey Rural District plus the following parishes which were part of the Caxton and Arrington Rural Districts i.e. Bourn, Caldecote, Caxton, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Graveley, Hardwick, Knapwell, Papworth Everard, Papworth St. Agnes and Toft. These changes render true statistical comparisons between the annual vital statistics somewhat difficult but the trend which is demonstrated provides a valid indication of how the health of its population has fared.

Table 1. shows the trend in population from 1891 - 1951. It will be noted from the ten year averages that apart from a regression in the period 1911 - 1920 there has been a fairly steady increase in the number of persons living in the area. In latter years this increase reflects the tendency for the district to be the recipient of the overflow population of the City.

TABLE I  
POPULATION TRENDS

1891 - 1951

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CENSUS POPULATION</u>	<u>PREVIOUS TEN YEAR AVERAGE</u>
1891	23,464	-
1901	23,654	23,464
1911	27,434	24,951
1921	23,805	22,848
1931	26,877	24,878
1941	-	30,300
1951	38,646	35,350

Turning to the birth, death and infant mortality rates (the last figure is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1000 live and stillbirths), it is shown in Table 11 that these rates have fallen progressively from the ten year average 1891/1900 to the present day. Most notable is the fall in the infant mortality rates. This figure is generally accepted as a guide to the health of the community and as is well known for England and Wales it has fallen steadily for the last 50 years gathering particular momentum in the last decade.

TABLE 11. TEN YEAR AVERAGES  
BIRTHS, DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

<u>PERIOD IN YEARS</u>	<u>BIRTH RATE</u>	<u>DEATH RATE</u>	<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATE</u>
1891 - 1900	24.1	14.5	104.0
1901 - 1910	21.7	12.6	82.0
1911 - 1920	17.46	13.5	63.7
1921 - 1930	15.2	12.1	53.4
1931 - 1940	13.2	11.9	40.5
1941 - 1950	16.9	11.6	36.8
1951	15.3	12.3	20.1



With regard to the general hygiene and sanitation of the district the report for 1887 when Dr. Bushell Anningson was Medical Officer of Health, makes pertinent comment upon the problems of that day. In discussing water supplies it is noted that 'with regard to Histon a pure water supply is now in the reach of every house, but there exists a remarkable apathy in making use of it'. In this year's (1951) report it is to be noted that 82% of the properties on the rate books have a pure water supply and in a large proportion there is a piped supply to the house; only two small villages remain unsatisfactorily supplied, Newton and Childerley. The scheme for the former will be completed early in 1952.

Speaking of nuisances, Dr. Anningson after referring to previous remarks upon the subject, says, 'I know well how tenaciously the inhabitants hug the filth which they deposit close to their doors in belief of its agricultural value to their garden plots, quite regardless of its effect on their health'. Today the Council owns a fleet of refuse vehicles and on page 38 of this report the extent and success of this very necessary service is described.

With the difficulties of transport and communication together with the fact that the population had to be educated into realising the necessity for improving their standards of hygiene and sanitation for their mutual benefit, it is commendable that outbreaks of infectious disease were terminated with the promptitude that was achieved. If the incidence of typhoid fever can be taken as showing the lack of adequate sanitation, then it would be expected that a fall in the incidence of cases would occur over the years as improvements were made in the supply of pure water and the safer disposal of excremental material and refuse. In the 19th and early 20th century there was a concentrated effort to improve matters. In the reports for 1887-1909 frequent reference is made to polluted water supplies from wells situated near cesspools, privies and refuse pits. It was an uphill task, since instances are recorded of people continuing to use wells known to be polluted and in some instances known to be contaminated with typhoid, despite the provision of a pure water supply.

In Table III the incidence of certain infectious diseases is shown and attention is drawn to the typhoid figures in the light of the foregoing remarks.

TABLE 111. CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES AND DEATHS OCCURRING IN TEN YEARLY PERIODS

<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>SMALLPOX</u>		<u>TYPHOID FEVER</u>		<u>SCARLET FEVER</u>		<u>DIPHTHERIA</u>	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1891. - 1900	7	-	72	14	422	8	238	44
1901 - 1910	10	2	98	14	434	1	232	24
1911 - 1920	-	-	37	6	990	10	285	31
1921 - 1930	-	-	24	3	452	2	181	11
1931 - 1940	-	-	24	4	708	6	100	8
1941 - 1950	-	-	8	1	346	-	19	1
1951	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-

Since the decade 1901/10 the district has not been troubled by smallpox. Scarlet fever and diphtheria both show a marked decline. In the case of diphtheria, first the introduction of antitoxin reduced the death rate and the immunization campaign in the early 1940's attacked the case rate with the notable result shown in Table 111. that there were only 19 cases and one death in the decade 1941/50 as compared with 100 and 8 deaths in the previous decade. Diphtheria immunization was started in the district in 1938 by arrangement with the general practitioners, thus a scheme was in being prior to the inception of the nation wide campaign inaugurated by the Ministry of Health in 1941.

In 1891/2 the Council's attention was drawn to the necessity of providing an isolation hospital for cases of infectious disease. The matter was referred to in subsequent reports and eventually a site was chosen at Oakington. A small hospital was built which opened in 1906 receiving its first case of scarlet fever on October 15th that year. The site occupied was one of 12 acres. At first there was accommodation for seven cases. This number was later increased to ten but at no time could more than one disease be admitted. In 1934 the question of enlargement and modernisation was discussed but after due consideration a final arrangement was made whereby the Cambridge Borough Isolation Hospital agreed to accept all cases and the Oakington Hospital was closed in 1938. During the war years it was held available by the County Council for use as a smallpox hospital. Since the last war



the County Council has converted the house into two staff flats and the ward blocks have been demolished. A reception centre and short stay home for children in the care of the County Council is being built upon the remainder of the site.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1951

There have been no major epidemics and none of the more serious infectious diseases, for example smallpox and typhoid fever, have invaded the district. In Table IV (page 16) the incidence of infectious disease for 1951 is shown and the total figures for 1950 for comparison.

**MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH** Cases of measles and whooping cough were not required to be notified until October 1939. From 1941 till this year the number of cases notified and the deaths attributable to these diseases is shown in Table V (page 17). Whooping cough, because of the difficulty it presents in early diagnosis is not easy to control. Since it is infectious for some time before the characteristic cough appears (though this symptom is not always present) many children may become infected from a case. It is a serious illness in young children and may leave behind it effects prejudicial to the child's well being. Quite often it has a fatal termination in the young child. For these and other reasons the production of a reliable preventive inoculation is urgently awaited. Recent work carried out by the Medical Research Council gives promise of the realisation of this desire and it is hoped that in the very near future a whooping cough campaign, similar to the successful diphtheria project of the war years, may be launched by the Ministry.

Measles and whooping cough continue to form the bulk of the notifications received. In the year under review cases of measles and whooping cough were particularly prevalent, an experience common to England and Wales generally as shown by the fact that the incidence of these diseases was higher this year than the country's average for the past ten years. Measles and whooping cough continue to produce a considerable morbidity in the child population but of the two, whooping cough carries the higher death rate. Taking the figures for the last ten years (see Table V page 17) there were 2,689 cases of measles notified with one death which represents a case fatality rate of .037 per cent whereas the 626 cases of whooping cough with six deaths gives a case fatality rate of .96 per cent.



TABLE IV. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS

1950 TOTALS	57	81	1		76	-	215
AGE IN YEARS	SCARLET FEVER	WHOOPING COUGH	PARALYTIC	ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS NON-PARALYTIC	MEASLES	DIPHTHERIA	TOTALS
Under 1	-	6	-	-	12	-	18
1 - 2	2	48	-	-	98	-	148
3 - 4	3	36	-	-	160	-	199
5 - 9	9	68	-	-	357	-	434
10 - 14	2	5	-	-	73	-	80
15 - 24	4	1	-	-	15	-	20
25 and over	1	7	-	1	5	-	14
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
TOTALS	21	171	-	1	723	-	916
1950 TOTALS (Deaths in brackets)	15 (5)	3	4	-	-	-	22 (5)
AGE IN YEARS	ACUTE PNEUMONIA	DYSENTERY	ERYSIPELAS	FOOD POISONING	PUPERAL PYREXIA	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	TOTALS
Under 5	4	32	1	1	-	1	39
5 - 14	5	20	-	1	-	-	26
15 - 44	7	11	-	2	2	-	22
45 - 64	15	2	3	1	-	-	21
65 and over	17	3	-	-	-	-	20
Age Unknown	-	4	-	1	-	-	5
TOTALS (Deaths in brackets)	48 (11)	72	4	6	2	1	133 (11)

TABLE 1. MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

Annual case incidence and deaths. 1941 - 1951.

YEARS											
<u>DISEASE</u>	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	TOTAL
<u>MEASLES</u>											
Cases	887	25	108	114	246	177	338	225	493	76	2,689
Deaths	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
723	-										
<u>WHOOPING COUGH</u>											
Cases	69	56	38	55	54	19	90	80	84	81	626
Deaths	2	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	6
171	-										

SCARLET FEVER AND  
DIPHTHERIA

Scarlet fever had a low incidence and diphtheria did not appear in the district at all. There have been no cases of diphtheria since 1949. Previously, in the period 1941/49 there were 19 notified cases with one death. It is known that the case that died had not been immunized and of the remaining cases records show that of the 7 occurring in the period 1944/48 none had been immunized.

PNEUMONIA In the early part of the year influenza was widespread as reflected in the notifications of acute pneumonia.

DYSENTERY During the first half of the year outbreaks of sonne dysentery occurred in the area. The most severe outbreak took place in Histon involving the junior and nursery schools. From this outbreak 62 positive specimens were obtained, 52 from children, 7 from parents of children attending the schools and 3 from members of the staff of the nursery school. The actual cause of the outbreak was not discovered. In the Oakington-Longstanton area 14 positive specimens were obtained, 10 from children and 4 from parents. Isolated cases also occurred in Fulbourn, Conington and Fen Drayton. In all 72 actual cases of sonne dysentery were notified. The discrepancy between positive specimens and notifications is accounted for by the fact that the organism can be recovered from patients who suffer no indisposition and are therefore not true cases but can, nevertheless, transmit the illness to other people. In the country as a whole sonne dysentery was more prevalent in the first sixteen weeks of this year than in the same period for the previous ten years. From a preventive aspect good personal hygiene and satisfactory sanitary arrangements are the most important factors in controlling its spread and much has been done in recent years to acquaint the public of the importance of personal hygiene and in particular thorough hand washing after visiting the toilet.

FOOD POISONING Food poisoning has not troubled the district noticeably. Six cases in all have been notified; three in one Service family were due to Salmonella typhi-murium but how the organism was introduced was not discovered. The other cases were not related and occurred in different parts of the district. One was due to Salmonella typhi-murium and its origin was not detected. The other two were suspected cases.



## TUBERCULOSIS

In Table A. the average number of deaths for ten year periods and the average death rate is given for pulmonary tuberculosis. These figures indicate a fall over the years, which has been experienced similarly throughout the country.

TABLE A. PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

AVERAGE TEN YEARLY DEATHS AND DEATH RATES PER 1000 POPULATION

	1891-1900	1901-1910	1911-1920	1921-1930	1931-1940	1941-1950
DEATHS	32.0	20.5	20.7	13.0	15.1	14.2
DEATH RATES	1.36	0.85	0.91	0.52	0.49	0.40

Pulmonary tuberculosis is an infectious disease associated with poverty, malnutrition and overcrowding. As these factors have diminished in the country the incidence and mortality of the disease experienced a steady fall up to the beginning of World War 11. From then until now mortality has shown a declining trend, though during the war years a slightly increased mortality occurred in certain years as compared with others. With regard to incidence, as evidenced by the annual formal notifications, this fell steadily from 117,000 approx. in 1913 to 46,000 approx in 1939/40; rose to 54,000 approx. 1943/44 and has since fallen to 52,000 approx. To what extent this rise, as compared with pre-war years, is real rather than apparent is difficult to assess but it can certainly be said that the use of Mass Radiography and the more intensive examination of case contacts has had its effect in discovering cases which would otherwise have escaped notice. There is no doubt that the earlier detection of cases by Mass Radiography and the discovery of certain drugs, notably P.A.S. (para-amino-salicylic acid) and streptomycin for the treatment of the disease, have together played an important part in affecting morbidity and mortality.

Nevertheless a considerable number of active and quiescent cases remain on the notification register. This register has been the subject of the customary periodic check this year and in Table B (page 20) the state of the register is shown as at December 31st. The large number of removals is attributable to the periodic check. Table B. shows that there are 253 pulmonary

TABLE B.                      TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	<u>PULMONARY</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
1. NUMBER OF CASES ON REGISTER AT COMMENCEMENT OF YEAR	187	136	52	54	239	190
2. NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED FOR FIRST TIME DURING THE YEAR UNDER REGULATIONS	8	15	5	6	13	21
3. CASES RESTORED TO REGISTER	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. CASES ADDED TO REGISTER OTHERWISE THAN BY NOTIFICATION UNDER REGULATIONS. (a) Transferred from other Districts	10	8	-	2	10	10
(b) From Death Returns	4	-	-	-	4	-
5. NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED FROM REGISTER	66	49	28	21	94	70
6. NUMBER OF CASES REMAINING ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR	143	110	29	41	172	151

Cases removed from the Register shown under (5) are accounted for as follows:-

Found not to be T.B.		Recovered		Removed to another area		Med		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
-	1	4	3	PULMONARY		26	18	66	49
				36	27	(9)	(1)		
-	-	12	14	HEM-PULMONARY		9	1	28	21
				7	6	(1)	(-)		

Figures in brackets are the actual deaths occurring in 1951.



and 70 non pulmonary cases making a total of 323. These figures represent a case rate per thousand population, calculated on the 1951 census population, of 6.54 pulmonary, 1.81 non-pulmonary with a total case rate of 8.35 per thousand. Of the total cases shown 28 pulmonary and one non-pulmonary are in Fulbourn Mental Hospital and 72 pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary are cases resident at Papworth Everard. The presence of the hospital and the colony at Papworth increases the rate for the district considerably and in order to show the actual experience of the area with regard to the incidence of all forms of tuberculosis the Papworth and Fulbourn cases have been removed together with estimates of the populations at risk, as shown in the following figures. The rates so calculated give a truer picture of the incidence of tuberculosis as experienced by the inhabitants of the area.

	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Papworth and Fulbourn</u>	<u>Adjusted Total</u>
Pulmonary	253	100	153
Non-Pulmonary	70	11	59
All Forms	323	111	212

The 1951 census population is 38,646. Estimating the Papworth and Fulbourn populations at 1,264 and 1,000 respectively, the adjusted population figure for calculating the rates becomes 36,382 and the adjusted rates are then found to be 4.20 per thousand population for pulmonary tuberculosis, 1.62 for non-pulmonary and 5.82 for all forms. In Table C. (page 22) and Table D. (page 23) the age and sex distribution of the cases is shown. In the first table all the cases are shown and in the second the Papworth and Fulbourn cases have been removed. A fair indication is given of the age groups most affected and incapacitated. On pages 25 and 26 graphs have been constructed showing the annual incidence of new cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis and the annual number of deaths. With regard to the new cases the incidence has been recorded with and without the inclusion of Papworth and Fulbourn cases. The fluctuations appearing in the line representing 'new cases less Papworth and Fulbourn' are not remarkable; those in the line showing the total new cases are in the main due to events attributable to the colony at Papworth together with the fact that pulmonary tuberculosis is often prevalent amongst patients in mental hospitals and a number of new cases is notified from the Fulbourn Mental Hospital each year.

TABLE C. AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION  
PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.51.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>MALE</u>		<u>FEMALE</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non. Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non. Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non. Pul.</u>	
0 - 15	7	6	2	11	9	17	26
15 - 25	8	7	21	11	29	18	47
25 - 35	32	5	29	4	61	9	70
35 - 45	30	3	30	5	60	8	68
45 - 55	31	4	13	7	44	11	55
55 - 65	23	2	7	1	30	3	33
65 and over	12	2	8	2	20	4	24
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>253</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>323</u>



TABLE D. AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION  
PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS  
CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.51.  
Less Papworth and Fulbourn Hospital Cases

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>MALE</u>		<u>FEMALE</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>	
0 - 15	6	4	2	11	8	15	23
15 - 25	6	5	20	11	26	16	42
25 - 35	21	1	22	4	43	5	48
35 - 45	10	3	18	6	28	9	37
45 - 55	17	3	5	6	22	9	31
55 - 65	6	-	4	1	10	1	11
65 and over	9	2	7	2	16	4	20
<u>TOTALS</u>	75	18	78	41	153	59	212

In 1950 the Mass Radiography unit visited the hospital and the results of the investigation are reflected in the upward trend of the line in 1950.

The incidence of non respiratory tuberculosis is largely attributable to infection from milk. It has been estimated that in the years 1948 and 1949 about 900 adults and 650 children died in these two years from tuberculosis due to infection with the bovine strain of the bacillus. In this connection the remarks of the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health in his report of the nation's health for 1949 are reproduced.

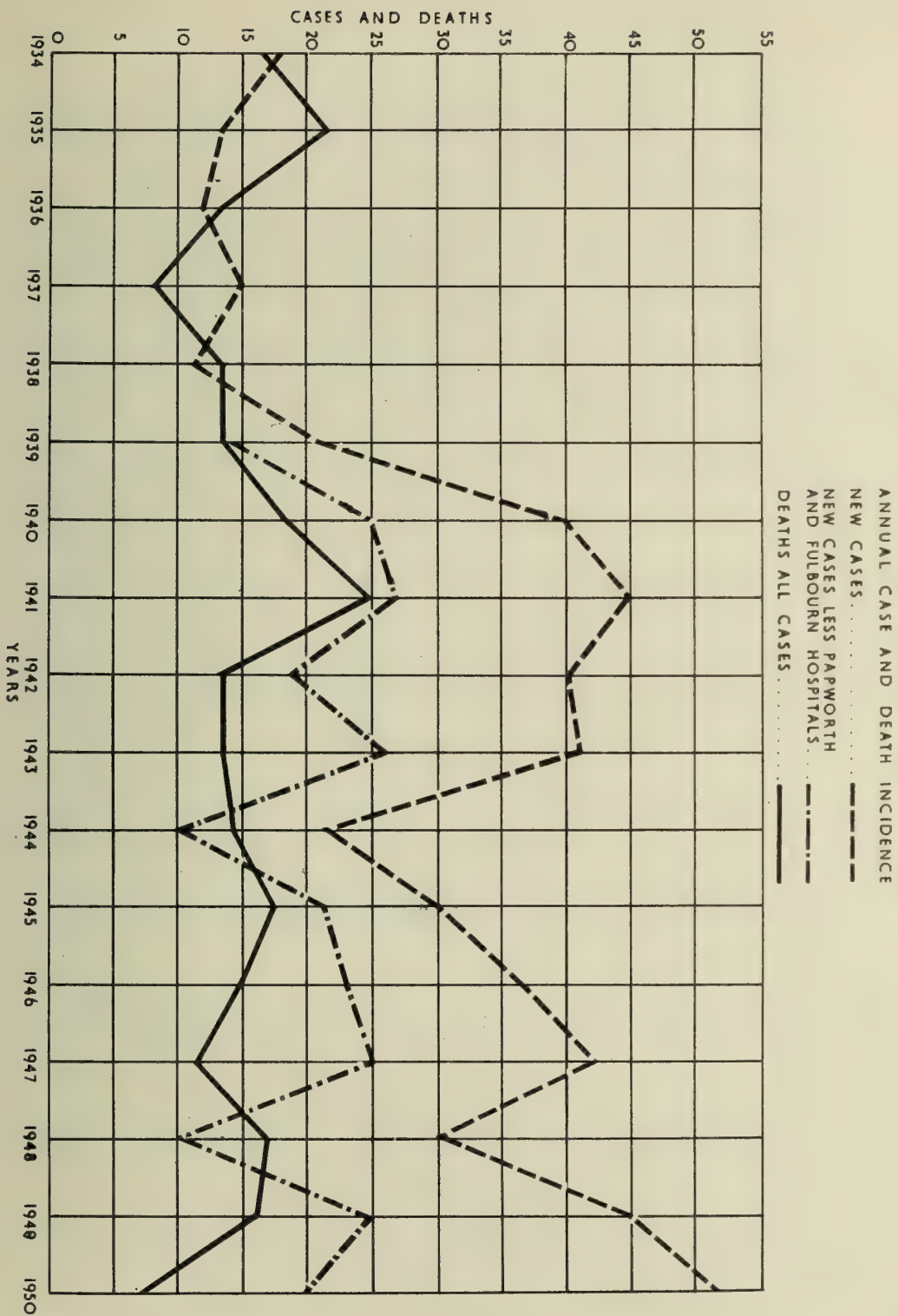
"Although mortality from non respiratory forms of tuberculosis has declined markedly in the last eleven years, it cannot be denied that these forms are still responsible for a considerable number of deaths and, in addition, for a large amount of severe crippling which is not reflected in the mortality records. Milk is known to be the main source of this infection. It is also known that efficient heat-treatment of milk will eliminate not only tubercle bacilli. but also the many other organisms of the group of milk-borne infections which cause sickness and death. A great deal of unnecessary disease is at present endured in this country which could be avoided by the introduction of compulsory heat-treatment of milk".

With regard to milk supplies, active steps are being taken in conjunction with the veterinary officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Public Health Laboratories Service to trace and eliminate sources of infection.

Since infection with the tubercle bacillus causes an illness requiring, in most cases, a considerable period of rest and treatment, control of the disease is economically important to the country, apart from the natural desire to eliminate human suffering. With the changes in the structure of our population producing an increasing number of dependants upon a working population which is not increasing proportionately, it is of prime importance that an infectious disease producing long term illness should command urgent attention.

By the use of Mass Radiography, the important work of tracing case contacts, the increasing use of protective inoculation in suitable cases by means of B.C.G., the improved techniques of treatment and the general raising of living standards in the population, a great effort is being made toward combating the effects of the disease.

# CHESTERTON PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS



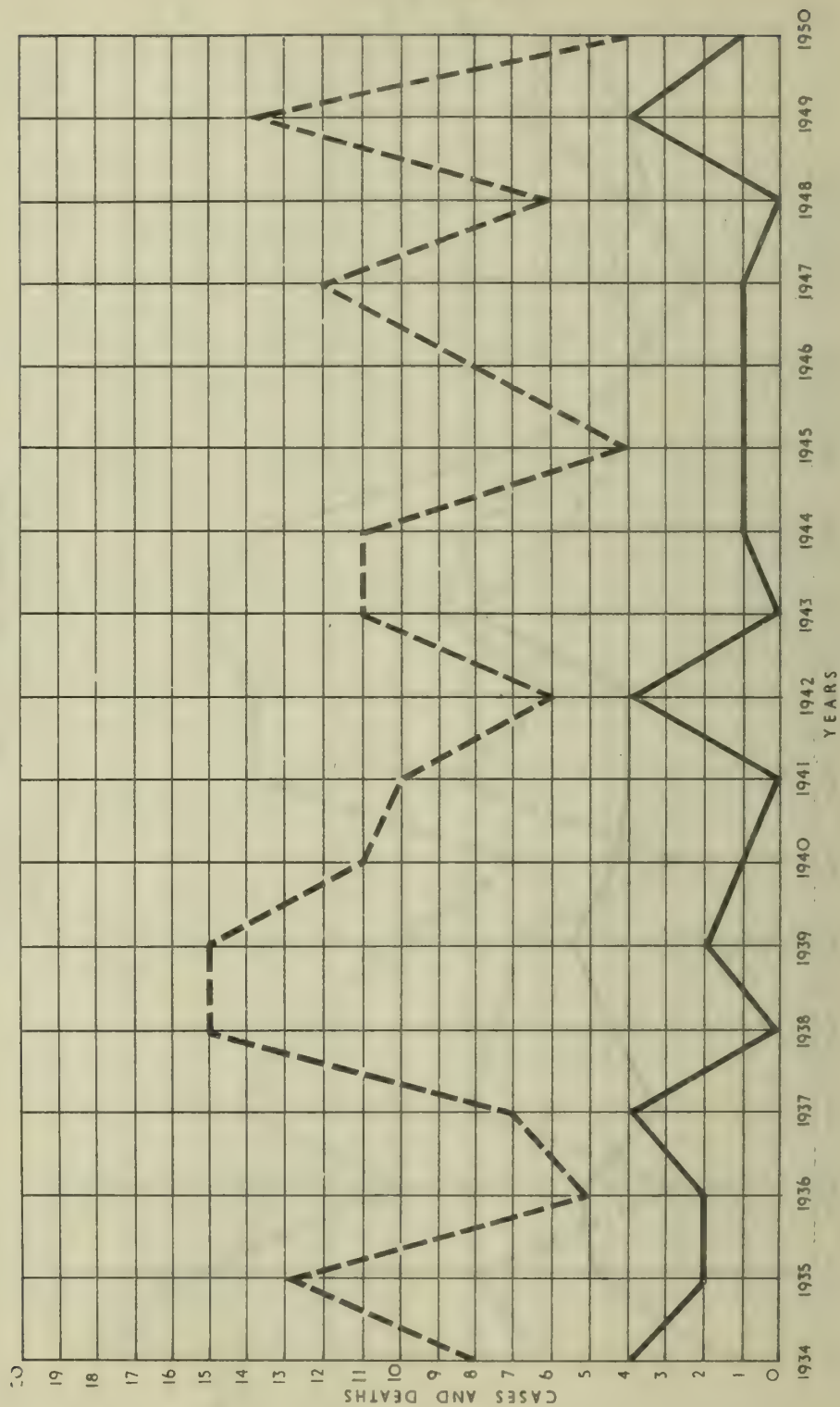


# CHESTERTON NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

ANNUAL CASE AND DEATH INCIDENCE

KEY

NEW CASES.....  
DEATHS.....



NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 47

No action was necessary under this section during the year. It will be remembered that the section relates to the removal to an institution of persons in need of care and attention who are unwilling to go but for whom it is considered that it is in their best interests that they should be cared for in this way. In August 1951, an Amending Act to this section of the main Act was passed, enabling, in cases of urgency, a short procedure to be followed. This modified procedure is a desirable factor in the interests of the persons for whom this section was designed, but it is considered that all concerned with the welfare of the community should realise that an infringement upon the freedom of an individual should only be resorted to in exceptional circumstances. Certain domiciliary services are provided both by the local health authority and voluntary organisations.

Despite the removal by statute of the onus upon the family to care for its aged members, children have a moral debt to their parents and should not look to the State for institutional assistance in the care of aged and helpless relations unless they truly believe that it is in the person's best interests and is the only course to be followed.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 50

It was necessary to effect the burial of one person under this section, since no other arrangements were possible.

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of inspections carried out during 1951:-

### GENERAL SANITATION

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED - 6,221

Miscellaneous visits re complaints etc.	585
Drainage	809
Sewerage	40
Water Supplies	1,330
Water Samples taken	366
Factories	255
Visits re verminous persons or property	87
Public Cleansing visits	534
Shops Acts etc.	283
River Pollution	6
Schools	150
Burial Grounds	37
Civil Defence	8
Rag Flock Acts	2

### INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Visits re sampling (milk and other foods)	269
Visits to slaughter houses	55
Butchers shops	75
Preserved Food Premises	
(1) Sausage Manufacturers	58
(2) Fried Fish Shops	14
(3) Tripe Boiler	2
Ice Cream Premises (Retailers)	105
Cafes and Restaurants	122
Other Food Premises	171
Bakehouses	60
Retail Dairies	59
Licensed Premises (Public Houses etc.)	124

### HOUSING

Housing Inspections (P.H.A. 1936)	19
Reinspections	55
Housing Inspections (Housing Acts)	126
Reinspections	96
Moveable Dwellings	190

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits and Enquiries	222
Disinfections	36



## HOUSING

1. Total number of houses erected by the Council between 1920 and 1939. - 1,320.

2. Post War Housing Progress.

	<u>Permanent</u>	<u>Non-Traditional</u>	<u>Pre-Fabs.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Houses completed in 1946	18	-	5	23
Houses completed in 1947	52	16	45	113
Houses completed in 1948	77	10	-	87
Houses completed in 1949	21	70	-	91
Houses completed in 1950	115	-	-	115
Houses completed in 1951	<u>133</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>133</u>
	<u>416</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>562</u>

These figures are exclusive of conversions into flats and conversions of hutted dwellings.

Total number of dwellings completed up to 31st March, 1952.

Prefabricated bungalows	50
Bungalows	7
Flats	9
Swedish and Airey Houses	96
Hut conversions	225
Permanent Houses	<u>430</u>
	<u>817</u>

Permanent houses in course of erection or contracts drawn up. 174

Conversion of huts into temporary dwellings (ten years) in hand. Nil

Conversion of huts into temporary dwellings (five years) in hand. Nil

3. Number of houses built during the year by private enterprise.

Permanent 34, Temporary 2, Prefabs. Nil, Conversions (units) 1.

4. Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts during the year:-

Houses inspected	145
Reinspections made	151
Demolition Orders made	9
Houses demolished	11
Undertakings (Section II (3)) accepted	3
Undertakings (Section II (3)) cancelled	1
Houses made fit	59

Since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930 the following action has been taken:-

Houses demolished	411
Houses demolished (voluntarily)	19
Houses in respect of which undertakings under Section 11(3) Housing Act, 1936 have been accepted.	72
Houses (or parts) closed	5
Houses made fit by formal action	29
Houses made fit by informal action	666

NOTE These figures are totals up to 31.3.52.

It will be noted that out of a total of approximately 11,700 houses in the area the Council has erected nearly 2,000 houses and converted 225 hutments for occupation. As a result of a recent careful revision of the housing list of applicants the following are still awaiting accommodation:-

Families in lodgings (no separate houses)	360
Families in separate dwellings but under Notice, Court Order or being in unfit accommodation	762
	<hr/>
TOTAL	1,122 +

+ This total includes 247 agricultural workers.

At the present rate of progress some years must elapse before this list can be substantially reduced. At the same time unfortunately there is a rapid and continual deterioration of small cottage property which only serves to intensify the problem. It is to be regretted that there has not been, as yet, any revision of the Rent Restrictions Acts which now bear no relation to the present day cost of maintenance and repairs, nor is there any financial assistance by way of grants for the repair of old property. In the main, the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949 are confined to the improvement of better class property and contribute little to the solution of this problem.

As a result of these factors, action under the Housing Acts has been confined, of necessity, to ensuring that at least the hopelessly unfit properties are not relet once they become vacant. In such cases Demolition Orders are made or formal undertakings are accepted (Section 11(3) Housing Act, 1936). Action under

POST WAR HOUSING

PARISH ALLOCATION

(Houses under contract or work commenced 31.3.52)

Parish	Permanent Construction				Temporary Accommodation	
	Allocated		Completed		Allocated	Completed
	Houses	Bunga- lows and Flats	Houses	Bunga- lows and Flats	Huts and Prefabs etc.	Huts and Prefabs etc.
Barton .. ..	6	-	6	-	-	-
Bourn .. ..	-	-	-	-	110	110
Boxworth .. ..	4	-	4	-	-	-
Carton .. ..	13	4	7	-	-	-
Comberton.. ..	4	-	4	-	-	-
Conington.. ..	8	-	8	-	-	-
Coton .. ..	50	3	50	3	-	-
Cottenham.. ..	44	4	32	4	22	22
Croxton .. ..	8	-	8	-	-	-
Dry Drayton .. ..	8	-	8	-	-	-
Elsworth .. ..	12	-	12	-	-	-
Eltisley .. ..	9	-	9	-	-	-
Fen Ditton .. ..	8	-	8	-	-	-
Fen Drayton .. ..	16	-	12	-	-	-
Fulbourn .. ..	16	-	16	-	10	10
Girton .. ..	59	10	55	-	-	-
Grantchester .. ..	6	-	4	-	-	-
Graveley .. ..	8	-	8	-	14	14
Harlton .. ..	7	-	7	-	-	-
Harston .. ..	30	-	-	-	-	-
Haslingfield .. ..	6	4	6	4	-	-
Histon .. ..	22	-	22	-	-	-
Impington .. ..	22	-	22	-	10	10
Knapwell.. ..	6	-	6	-	-	-
Landbeach.. ..	8	-	8	-	-	-
Lolworth .. ..	4	-	-	-	-	-
Longstanton A.S.	14	3	6	-	26	26
Maddingley.. ..	8	-	8	-	-	-
Milton .. ..	28	-	24	-	-	-
Newton .. ..	4	-	4	-	-	-
Oakington.. ..	16	8	12	2	10	10
Over .. ..	8	-	8	-	-	-
Rampton .. ..	11	-	-	-	-	-
Great Shelford.	12	-	12	-	10	10
Little Shelford	18	-	8	-	-	-
Stapleford .. ..	10	-	10	-	-	-
Stow-cum-Quy .. ..	-	-	-	-	52	52
Swavesey .. ..	26	6	26	-	-	-
Teversham.. ..	12	-	12	-	-	-
Toft .. ..	8	-	8	-	-	-
Waterbeach. .. ..	43	8	17	-	11	11
Great Wilbraham	8	-	8	-	-	-
Willingham .. ..	41	15	41	3	-	-
Totals	651	65	526	16	275	275



Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, is almost precluded at the present time and in the main, execution of essential repairs is obtained under the provisions of the Public Health Act. Recently the Council began building a wider range of dwellings including two bedroomed houses and bungalows for old people.

The continual increase in building costs with consequent increased rents often creates a problem in the rehousing of tenants of condemned property. The Council has introduced a rent rebate system which mitigates this trouble to some extent.

### Requisitioning

At the 31st March, 1952, thirty seven properties were retained by the Council on Requisitioning Orders, providing accommodation for thirty nine family units.

### Temporary Hutments

The Council has accepted and adapted 225 huts for temporary occupation, many of which were already occupied by 'squatters' (often from outside the area). The condition of the majority of these huts is a source of great concern to the department since none were constructed for permanent family occupation, and their deterioration is becoming increasingly apparent. Many are quite unfit for winter occupation owing to insufficient heating and serious internal condensation, and they can no longer be maintained economically. Only by the systematic elimination of these hutments as they become vacant will the problem be solved.

### Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites

The number of persons resorting to caravans for temporary occupation as a result of the acute housing position continues to increase, and there is still a serious shortage of suitable sites for residential caravans. When the Public Health Act, 1936 was passed it was never contemplated that caravans would be used extensively for all the year round occupation in substitution for dwelling houses and it is often difficult to relate legislation mainly intended to control holiday caravanning to the present day needs of the static caravan dweller. The position has been further complicated since the introduction of the new Planning Act. Some duplication of control is inevitable and difficulty is sometimes experienced in reconciling the urgent housing needs with purely planning considerations. In general it is preferable for residential caravans to be grouped on sites where adequate facilities exist and where the occupants can participate in the

normal social activities of the parish rather than being scattered individually around the countryside.

There has been the usual influx of caravan dwellers for fruit picking and seasonal agricultural work, but their stay is of short duration. Adequate supervision from the public health aspect is rendered the more difficult by the fact that isolated sites are usually chosen by these people.

The following figures indicate the position at 31st December, 1951:-

Number of licences issued during the year for individual caravans.	59
Number refused.	Nil
Number of new site licences issued.	3
Vehicles involved.	16
Number of site licences refused.	2
Total number of individual caravan licences in force at 31st December, 1951.	116
Total number of site licences in force at 31st December, 1951.	12
Total vehicles involved.	63
Total number of visits paid.	190
Site improvements carried out.	4
New or improved sanitary accommodation.	2
Mains water or electricity laid on.	2
New dustbins provided.	5

#### WATER SUPPLY

At the time of writing a mains water supply has been provided to all the 53 parishes in the Council's area. Mains extensions have also been carried out at Papley Grove, Eltisley; Twentypence Road, Cottenham; Earith Bridge, Willingham and in Rampton parish. Agricultural schemes are under consideration for supplying certain fen areas, notably North Fen and Smithy Fen, Cottenham.

PIPED WATER SUPPLIES AT 31. 3. 52.

Parish	Estimated Population 1948 (Planning)	Statu- tory Author- ity	No. of Dwellings (Rate Books) 31.3.52.	No. of Dwellings taking Supply (Rated)	% of Dwell- ings at 31.3.52	Remarks
Barton	461	C.R.D.C.	187	124	64%	
Bourn	705	C.R.D.C.	374	339	91%	
Boxworth	150	C.R.D.C.	62	59	95%	
Caldecote	348	C.R.D.C.	137	126	92%	
Caxton	383	C.R.D.C.	112	100	89%	
Childerley	15	C.R.D.C.	7	1	14%	{ Scheme in hand
Comberton	640	C.R.D.C.	201	139	69%	
Conington	177	C.R.D.C.	45	41	93%	
Coton	403	C.W.W.	173	153	88%	
Cottenham	2,538	C.R.D.C.	911	862	95%	
Croxton	184	C.R.D.C.	69	59	86%	
Dry Drayton	356	C.R.D.C.	126	75	60%	
Elsworth	464	C.R.D.C.	164	148	90%	
Eltisley	294	C.R.D.C.	99	81	82%	{ * Remainder supplied from private source (Land Settlement)
Fen Ditton	505	C.W.W.	202	127	63%	
Fen Drayton	406	C.R.D.C.	140	69	50%	
Fulbourn	2,404	C.W.W.	481	342	71%	
Girton	2,139	C.W.W.	628	587	93%	
Grantchester	479	C.W.W.	170	164	96%	
Graveley	158	C.R.D.C.	64	27	42%	{ Mains just completed
Hardwick	455	C.R.D.C.	159	114	72%	
Harlton	304	C.R.D.C.	81	34	42%	
Harston	893	C.R.D.C.	309	280	91%	
Haslingfield	909	C.R.D.C.	221	120	55%	
Hauxton	325	C.R.D.C.	123	103	84%	
Histon	2,415	C.W.W.	856	1,184	91%	
Horningsea	318	C.R.D.C.	110	52	47%	
Impington	1,221	C.W.W.	451	(with Histon)	91%	
Knapwell	93	C.R.D.C.	37	36	99%	
Landbeach	506	C.R.D.C.	199	137	69%	
Lolworth	104	C.R.D.C.	33	19	58%	
Longstanton A.S.	425	C.R.D.C.	130	113	87%	
Longstanton S.M.	77	C.R.D.C.	48	42	88%	
Madingley	169	C.W.W.	72	60	83%	{ Scheme in progress.
Milton	683	C.W.W.	229	171	75%	
Newton	392	C.R.D.C.	89	-	-	{ Completion by 30.4.52.
Oakington	572	C.R.D.C.	175	163	93%	
Over	856	C.R.D.C.	341	287	84%	
Papworth Everard	1,264	C.R.D.C.	244	241	99%	
Papworth St. Ag.	82	C.R.D.C.	31	3	10%	{ Mains just completed
Rampton	226	C.R.D.C.	75	69	92%	
Great Shelford	2,346	C.W.W.	792	732	92%	
Little Shelford	552	C.W.W.	183	138	75%	
Stapleford	902	C.W.W.	278	230	83%	
Stow-cum-Quy	475	C.R.D.C.	165	137	83%	
Swavesey	814	C.R.D.C.	316	282	89%	
Terversham	505	C.W.W.	158	104	66%	
Toft	199	C.R.D.C.	83	67	81%	
Waterbeach	1,640	C.R.D.C.	505	376	74%	
Westwick	37	C.R.D.C.	14	14	100%	
Great Wilbraham	422	C.W.W.	145	104	71%	
Little Wilbraham	330	C.R.D.C.	104	79	76%	
Willingham	1,700	C.W.W.	647	595	92%	
Totals	35,420		11,755	9,709	82.5%	

C.R.D.C. Chesterton Rural District Council  
 C.W.W. Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company  
 W.W.W. Willingham Water Company  
 1951 Census population 38,646



During the year considerable survey work has been carried out particularly in parishes where new mains have recently been completed, and owners of property have been encouraged (and occasionally compelled) to connect their properties, where no satisfactory alternative supply was available. The success of this work is reflected in the increased percentage of properties taking a supply as shown in the table on page 34; from which it is noted that 82.5% of the total dwellings now take a supply as against 78% in 1950.

Having regard to the large number of small cottage properties of low rateable value in the area it has not been found possible to implement the provisions of Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945 (taking water into houses) in many cases, and the provision of an external tap for not more than two properties has been accepted. The elimination of public standpipes has made substantial progress during the year, particularly in the parishes of Boxworth and Cottenham.

### Sufficiency of Supply

With the completion of the new mains the necessity for carting water has been reduced substantially. The Council's tanker is now only employed in supplying four isolated areas involving no more than a total of ten dwellings, one public house and a café. In these cases mains extensions could not be carried out economically and alternative local supplies are unobtainable.

The new bore of the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board sunk at Bourn was put into service during the year. The scheme for supplementing this supply from an R.A.F. bore at Lordsbridge, Harlton has not yet been put into operation.

No difficulty was experienced during the year in meeting the demands of the area, although pressures are poor in certain areas, notably Eltisley, Croxton, Swavesey and Longstanton. Schemes are in hand for improving this trouble.

### Chlorination

All public supplies are chlorinated with the exception of the Council's Harston supply (single village), and the Willingham supply (private Company). The Council has a scheme in hand for chlorinating the Harston supply which it is hoped will be put into operation shortly. As recorded later in this report the water supplied by the Willingham Water Company caused some anxiety during the year from a bacteriological point of view, and at the request of the Company the Council's Engineers have installed a

temporary drip feed chlorinating plant in the well until such time as the future of the Company is known.

### Sampling

All public supplies are sampled at least monthly for bacteriological examination, and full chemical and bacteriological reports are made quarterly. The chemical analyses performed this year have not deviated in any significant way from similar results recorded in previous reports. During the year a good deal of detailed sampling has been carried out along the routes of the various distribution mains and accounts for the somewhat high figure for unsatisfactory samples in the following table. Those for Cottenham were traced to mains damaged during the laying of new sewers in Histon and prompt action by the Company quickly eliminated the trouble. Those found at Swavesey and Fen Drayton were due to alterations to the main occasioned by the construction of a new highway bridge and the trouble was cured by flushing and rechlorinating the mains. Those from the supply of the Willingham Water Company were due largely to the absence of chlorination which has now been remedied.

### Willingham Water Company

This small private Company supplies the village of Willingham only (population 1,700). The source of supply is a shallow gravel well, the water being pumped partly into the distribution and partly into an elevated storage tank. During the year sampling revealed bacterial contamination in the distribution system and as an emergency measure a drip feed chlorinator was inserted in the well by the Council's Engineers on behalf of the Company.

### Summary of Work Carried Out by the Department

Total number of visits made	1,330
Total samples taken	366
Samples reported fit	
(a) Public supplies	232
(b) Private wells etc.	18
Samples reported unfit	
(a) Public supplies	79
(b) Private wells etc.	37
Water supplies to houses improved as a result of action by the department (excluding mains extensions)	71

WATER SAMPLING YEAR ENDED 31.12.51.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Source	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company		
Cottenham	21	10
Girton	6	-
Hauxton	3	-
Histon	3	1
Impington	2	-
Landbeach	5	2
Longstanton	2	2
Maddingley	2	-
Milton	1	-
Oakington	3	-
Waterbeach	5	1
Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board		
Barton	1	-
Comberton	4	-
Fen Drayton	18	10
Fenstanton	2	-
Graveley	9	5
Harlton	2	-
Haslingfield	4	1
Knapwell	1	-
Swavesey	33	14
Toft	5	-
Harston Waterworks	19	1
Over Waterworks	43	7
Willingham Water Company	34	25
Newmarket R.D.C. (Quy Village)	4	-
TOTALS	232	79



## PRIVATE WELLS

Parish	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Boxworth	1	1
Comberton	1	3
Coton	-	1
Cottenham	2	4
Fulbourn	-	2
Harlton	1	-
Hauxton	1	1
Landbeach	4	4
Longstanton	-	7
Oakington	1	1
Great Shelford	-	1
Little Shelford	1	-
Swavesey	1	2
Waterbeach	5	9
Willingham	-	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>37</b>

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

The department remains responsible for public cleansing in the area, and at the present time refuse from each of the 53 parishes in the district is collected not less frequently than once per month. The semi-urban parishes are collected weekly (31%) and five other parishes at fortnightly intervals (10%). The remaining 41 parishes (59%) are collected monthly.

The present schedule of collections is as follows:-

### COLLECTIONS 1951. HOUSE REFUSE

WEEKLY	HOUSES	FORNIGHTLY	HOUSES
Girton	628	Fen Ditton	202
Harston	309	Landbeach	199
Hauxton	123	Milton	229
Histon	856	Newton	89
Impington	451	Waterbeach	505
Gt. Shelford	792		
Lt. Shelford	183		
Stapleford	278		
<b>8 Parishes</b>	<b>3,620 (31%)</b>	<b>5 Parishes</b>	<b>1,224 (10%)</b>

Monthly	Houses	Monthly	Houses	Monthly	Houses
Barton	187	Fen Drayton	140	Over	341
Bourn	374	Fulbourn	481	Papworth	244
Boxworth	62	Grantchester	170	Everard	
Caldecote	137	Graveley	64	Papworth	31
Caxton	112	Hardwick	159	St. Agnes	
Childerley	7	Harlton	81	Rampton	75
Comberton	201	Haslingfield	221	Stow-cum-Quy	165
Conington	45	Horningsea	110	Swavesey	316
Coton	173	Knapwell	37	Teversham	158
Cottenham	911	Lolworth	33	Toft	83
Croxton	69	Longstanton A.S.	130	Westwick	14
Dry Drayton	126	Longstanton S.M.	48	Gt. Wilbraham	145
Elsworth	164	Madingley	72	Lt. Wilbraham	104
Eltisley	99	Oakington	175	Willingham	647
41 Parishes. 6,911 Houses (59%).					

The department also undertakes the collection of night soil as follows:-

#### COLLECTION OF NIGHT SOIL

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Houses</u>
Waterbeach	350
Grantchester (part)	50
2 Parishes. 400 Houses	

In addition to the service provided by the Council a private firm of Contractors in the area undertakes a bucket clearance scheme for private dwellings throughout the district for a nominal charge.

It is not easy to provide a refuse collection service covering 53 villages spread over 174 square miles and having regard to the fact that the scheme was not commenced until 1945 excellent progress has been made. The fleet comprises three Karrier Bantam (7 cu.yd.) vehicles one 12 cu.yd. Karrier CK 3 side loading vehicle and a new 12/15 cu.yd. Karrier CK 3 moving floor vehicle (delivered April, 1951). As will be seen from the summary the refuse vehicles have travelled over 45,000 miles during the year and over 5,000 tons of refuse have been collected and disposed of. Long and

uneconomical hauls are inevitable in an area of this kind and tipping presents considerable difficulty. Whilst improvement in the frequency of collections is very desirable, particularly in some of the larger villages, the stage has been reached when such improvement cannot be contemplated without substantial increase in cost.

Since the scheme commenced in 1945 there has been an increase of over 1,600 houses in the area (including new Council Estates and hutted camps etc.). This factor, together with the inclusion of contracts for collection from two permanent R.A.F. stations has thrown considerable strain on existing resources, more especially as no surplus labour is employed or is available from any other source. Any substantial sickness rate amongst the personnel creates serious difficulties in maintaining the collection schedules. Much of the garage and workshop facilities has had to be improvised pending the construction of the Council's new depot, and the results achieved under these circumstances are a source of satisfaction.

In order to encourage the use of proper sanitary dustbins a supply of galvanised B.S.S. bins is held in stock for resale to the public at cost price.

### Disposal

In a district bordering on the Fens which is completely flat and where the normal subsoil water level is seldom more than 3 or 4 feet from the surface, refuse disposal is extremely difficult. In the main, disposal is confined to the use of shallow gravel workings which usually have certain disadvantages. The Council's main tip at Histon having been filled in 1950, the following sites are in use:- Cottenham, Hauxton, Landbeach, Fulbourn and Fen Drayton. Controlled tipping is practiced as far as possible, although covering material is almost non existent. The cost of purchasing and transporting soil is often prohibitive. The maintenance of these tips in good condition is only possible by the use of mechanical equipment and until such time as a bulldozer can form part of the normal equipment of the Council, one is hired at frequent intervals.

The tips are under the constant supervision of the Council's Pests Officer and are regularly treated for rat destruction. The only problem arising during the year was firing of the tips, usually due to unauthorised tipping by private individuals. Small fires occurred at Hauxton and Landbeach which were quickly dealt with. A more serious position occurred at Fulbourn tip (due to unauthorised tipping of sawdust by a wood merchant). With the assistance of the County Fire Service this was finally checked and the site bulldozed and consolidated.



Considering the fact that no labour is permanently employed on the tips and the small establishment, the condition of the tips is reasonably satisfactory.

### Cesspool Emptying

The department continues to operate two Karrier Yorkshire 700 gallon cesspool emptiers for the casual clearance of private cesspools at a nominal charge, the desludging of small sewage disposal plants on housing sites and the cleansing of village catchpits and drains. Both vehicles are adapted for the collection of night soil. The service has been in great demand throughout the year and the substantial increase in the work required on the Council's housing sites tends to reduce the amount of time available for private work. The service offered remains the cheapest available. The difficulty of disposal creates a problem since no sewers are available in the area. Use is made of suitable agricultural land, but this is only seasonal, otherwise disposal is effected at sewage disposal plants where they are of sufficient size to deal effectively with the additional flow. The scarcity of such plants results in long uneconomical hauls and renders the service a costly one to operate, particularly in the winter months when the demand is greatest.

### Collection of Salvage

Notwithstanding the unhappy experience of June, 1949, when the market for waste paper dramatically collapsed, the prices offered at the beginning of 1951 were so attractive that collections were resumed. The public responded extremely well in spite of the fact that many dealers were offering to purchase the paper. During the year ending 31st March, 1952, the following amounts were collected and disposed of:-

	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Value</u>
Newsprint and Magazines etc.	19tons 9 cwt. 3 qtrs.	£403. 15. 6.
Mixed Waste	29tons 6 cwt. 3 qtrs.	£452. 19. 0.
TOTAL	48tons 16 cwt. 2 qtrs.	£856. 14. 6.

An incentive bonus of 10% of the gross value was paid to the men, having regard to the fact that this amount of paper was collected and baled without any additional labour being engaged. At the time of writing there has been once again a significant fall in prices (from £25 to £6. 10. 0. per ton) and there is every indication of a repetition of 1949.

It would be a great tragedy if the co-operation of the local authorities (and the public) should be lost once again. If this commodity is of such National importance as we are led to believe, means should be found to regulate the price so as to guarantee a fair return on a long term basis.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CLEANSING WORK CARRIED OUT DURING  
THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1952

House Refuse

Estimated tons of refuse removed and disposed of	5,289 tons
Total mileage travelled (5 vehicles)	45,817 miles
Cost of vehicles per mile	12.76 pence
Estimated cost per ton (collection and disposal)	£1. 6.1 $\frac{3}{4}$ (gross)
Estimated number of clearances	299,376 clearances
Estimated cost per clearance	5.5 pence
Average mileage per ton	8.6 miles
Average miles per gallon (5 vehicles)	9.5 m.p.g.
Estimated cost per 1,000 dwellings (collection and disposal - 11,755 houses)	£588.15.6 (gross)
Estimated cost per 1,000 population (38,646)	£182. 1.0 $\frac{1}{4}$ (gross)

Cesspool Emptying

Actual mileage travelled (2 vehicles)	24,159 miles
Estimated cost per mile	14.94 pence
Estimated cost per clearance	£2.17.5.
Estimated number of loads disposed of	1,632 loads
Estimated cost per load (collection and disposal)	£1.17.9.

Night Soil Collection

Total number of bucket clearances	17,328 clearances
Estimated cost per clearance	4.8 pence
Contract price per bucket clearance	6d. - 1/-.

The refuse collection costs are in respect of five vehicles this year as against four for the previous year. The cost per mile shows an increase from 10.7 pence to 12.76 pence mostly accounted for by the increased cost of petrol, oil, tyres and spares. After deduction of the total income from R.A.F. contracts and the sale of salvage (£1,288. 19. 11.) the net cost per ton for collection and disposal is reduced to £1. 1. 3. which may be considered satisfactory for a difficult district such as this.

The increased charges made for cesspool emptying have resulted in an increase in the total income from £1,267. 0.10. in 1950 to £2,182. 6. 3. leaving a net deficiency on the year's working of £902. 8.11. (2 vehicles). It is not considered unreasonable that this valuable service should be subsidised to the extent of a 1½d. rate, as otherwise the charges to the public would be prohibitive.

The cost of the night soil collection service shows little variation and still compares favourably with charges made by private contractors (between 6d. and 1/- per clearance).

#### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools in the area. Much bathing however continues in the River Cam, above and below Cambridge. Since the proceedings instituted by the Ouse and Cam Fishery Board in 1950 against a chemical firm with premises adjacent to the river there has been a gradual improvement in the condition of the river, which it is hoped will continue. A scheme has also been prepared for the substantial alteration and improvement of the City sewage disposal works, the effluent from which discharges into the river below Cambridge. No formal action has been necessary during the year and the constitution of the new River Board should ensure no further deterioration of the Cam.

#### SHOPS ACTS

There are 295 shops of various categories on the register. These are mostly small premises in conjunction with private dwelling houses and few employ large staffs. Consequently the Acts have very limited application and a somewhat liberal interpretation is permitted. Apart from the routine visits paid to food premises, reported elsewhere, the following inspections were made and improvements effected during the year:-



Inspections under the Shops Acts	112
Improved heating in shop	1
Improved lighting in shop	1
New sanitary accommodation	1
New drainage	3
New flooring	1
Redecoration or cleansing etc.	5

### VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES

Little action has been necessary during the year. The following is a summary:-

Visits and enquiries re verminous premises and/or persons	57
Premises disinfected:	
Fleas	16
Bugs	4
Flies, Mosquitoes etc.	8
Cockroaches	2
Persons removed to hospital for cleansing	1

Arrangements have been made for the fumigation of bedding and articles not capable of treatment on the spot at the County Hospital. There is still an absence of readily available facilities for the cleansing of verminous persons in the County.

### DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Visits in connection with drainage.	809
House drains, new or repaired .	123
Closet accommodation, new, repaired or improved.	106

The department is responsible for the inspection and testing of all new drainage and drainage alterations, or repairs to existing properties. It is customary now for property owners to seek the advice of this department before executing any drainage work, and this procedure has done much to ensure that effective systems are installed.

The Council's scheme for sewerage the parishes of Histon, Impington, Girton, Great and Little Shelford and Stapleford commenced in May, 1949 being divided into five Contracts. Contracts 1 and 2 (part of Girton and Great Shelford) are virtually complete and should shortly be available for connection. Good progress continues to be made with Contracts 3 and 4 (parts of Histon and Girton) and the actual laying is approximately 75% complete. The availability of the sewers will be dependent on the speed with which pumps can be delivered.

The sewerage of Milton parish is making good progress and may be completed in 1952. The final approval of the Ministry is still awaited to the scheme prepared and submitted for the parishes of Cottenham, Fulbourn and Waterbeach. The Council has agreed to give priority to the Fulbourn scheme in order to safeguard the wells of the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company, subject to agreement regarding the financial aspect. Tender documents are in course of preparation.

The area as a whole is a most difficult one from a drainage point of view owing to the high water table and heavy clay sub-soil. Consequently serious difficulties arise particularly in making adequate provision for new Council housing sites.

The only satisfactory solution is the development of sites of sufficient size to enable proper sewage disposal plants to be installed economically. During the year sewage disposal plants have been completed or contracts let in respect of the following sites.

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>NO. OF HOUSES</u>	<u>PARISH</u>	<u>NO. OF HOUSES</u>
Bourn	77	Longstanton	50
Caxton	28	Rampton	11
Cottenham	50	Oakington	18
Fen Ditton	20	Toft	35
Harston	70	Willingham	54
Landbeach	15	Waterbeach	30

(A total of 458 existing or proposed dwellings).

Satisfactory progress continues to be made in the installation of new drainage and the conversion of pail closets to the water carriage system by property owners and this work will no doubt be speeded up even more when the new sewers become available for connection.

## FACTORIES

A summary of the work carried out under the Factories Act is appended below:-

Number of factories with mechanical power	117
Number of factories without mechanical power	17
Inspections recorded	255
Notifications of outworkers received	40
Infected premises	Nil
Notices served	7

As a result of action taken by the Department the following improvements have been recorded during the year:-

New premises constructed	1
New sanitary accommodation provided	7
Improved sanitary accommodation provided	3
Sanitary accommodation cleansed	1
New or improved drainage	2
Mains water supply laid on	2
Improved lighting provided	3
New canteen provided	1

The majority of registered premises are small undertakings employing very few persons. The increase in the number of factories without mechanical power is due to the large amount of light assembly work now carried out in satellite premises in the villages.

The department is not responsible for the administration of Sections 34-37 of the Factories Act 1937. (means of escape in case of fire).

## RODENT DESTRUCTION

Since the introduction of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, a full time Pest Officer and one operator have been employed. A free service is given to all residential properties and treatment is carried out at all other properties on a recovery basis. Full advantage is taken of the new techniques and poisons developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and the service afforded is in great demand and well appreciated by the public. The staff is also called upon to deal with wasps, hornets and moles etc. Liaison with the Agricultural Executive Committee is good and effective coverage is provided throughout the district. After deduction of Ministry grants and recoverable expenditure the service costs approximately a penny rate. The following table is a brief report of the year's work.



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Summary of Work Carried out for the Year Ending 31.12.51.

Type of Property					
	Local Authority	Dwellings	Agricultural	Business & Industrial Premises etc.	Total
Approximate total number of properties in area.	20	11,135	1,000	500	12,655
Properties inspected as a result of notification of infestation	-	360	2	28	390
Properties inspected without notification of infestation	20	3,856	29	352	4,257
Number of properties found to be infested with rats. <u>Major</u>	7	-	2	3	12
<u>Minor</u>	11	1,001	-	119	1,131
Number of properties found to be infested with mice.	-	1	-	2	3
Number of infested properties treated by the Council.	18	1,002	2	124	1,146
Number of notices served under Section 4. (treatment)	-	-	1	-	1
Number of 'block control' schemes carried out.	-	39	-	-	39

It is interesting to record that the following results were achieved during the year:-

Number of rats recovered	5,113
Total estimated killed	20,452
Number of wasps nests removed	19
Number of hornets nests removed	3
Treatment carried out for moles	4

The control exercised over the Council's refuse tips is particularly effective and the speedy elimination of any 'reservoirs' of infestation must inevitably be of great public benefit, thereby reducing the ravages of the ubiquitous rat. This task would be greatly facilitated if householders could be encouraged to devote more attention to the condition of their outbuildings and the manner in which domestic poultry and pigs are housed.

### SCHOOLS

It is to be hoped that the need for, and construction of, new schools will not prejudice the work of providing existing village schools with modern sanitary fittings and facilities. Instruction in personal and food hygiene can be carried out best at an early age, but only if the necessary conditions exist at the schools. The following improvements have been recorded during the year but do not, of course represent the only work done.

Inspections and visits to schools	150
Improved or new sanitary accommodation	2
Premises redecorated	2
Additional or improved lighting	2
Playgrounds improved or resurfaced	5
Improved heating to classrooms	1
Mains water laid on	2

### RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Only one premises in the area is engaged in the manufacture of new upholstered furniture using the specified materials. The necessary registration has been effected. Other premises in the area used for the repair of upholstered furniture do not appear to be covered by the Act. Since it is amongst this category that the greatest risk exists it is regretted that they have not been brought within the compass of this Act.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are no pet shops in the area. The keeping of pet animals at private dwellings for sale elsewhere is however under investigation.

## INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

### MILK SUPPLY

The department having been relieved of the responsibility for supervision of milk production on the farm as a result of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, has been able to focus its attention on the distribution side so as to ensure regular and systematic sampling of supplies as delivered to the consumer (including school children). The following paragraphs exemplify the importance of this work.

The transfer of production control to the Ministry of Agriculture via the Agricultural Committee, brought about by the new Act was originally viewed with some concern, but tribute must be paid to the officers and members of the local Committee for the manner in which they are tackling the incorrigibly bad producers. The work of the Regional Milk Marketing Board under the aegis of the Joint Quality Control Committee also ensures effective control over the non-designated producers. It is sometimes overlooked that under the Board's contract the farmer is required to supply 'pure new milk, sweet, clean and marketable', and the efforts of the Board and the consignees to enforce this clause are welcomed.

Although great strides have been made in recent years towards the elimination of diseased cattle from dairy herds, there is still a great deal to be done before the risk of infected milk being sold can be dismissed. As will be seen later in this report it is still possible for milk infected with the organisms of tuberculosis to be obtained from a Tuberculin Tested (attested) herd. Whilst this risk exists the vigilance of the department is amply justified.

The following figures (supplied by courtesy of the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Committee) indicate the position in this area at 31st December, 1951.

Number of Wholesale Producers in area	156
Number of Producer Retailers	68
Number of Retail Purveyors	18

Included in the above figures are 68 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk (30%) and 24 Accredited producers (10%). Of the 224 registered producers in the area 41% now produce designated milk and approximately 59 herds (26%) are 'attested'.



The work of the department in connection with the distribution of milk under the new Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, may be summarised as follows:-

Number of distributors with registered premises in the area	15
Number of distributors with premises outside the area	3
Visits paid to retail dairies	59
Licences issued to retail Pasteurised milk	10
Licences issued to retail T.T. (pasteurised) milk	9
Licences issued to retail Sterilised milk	1
Improvements carried out to dairies	3

The retail premises in the area are small and the requirements of the regulations have been well met by the dairymen concerned. There is a growing tendency to purchase milk (including designated milk), already bottled by the large firms outside the area for resale in the district, and this practice has much to commend it from a public health point of view, so long as there is no undue delay between production and delivery. It also ensures that the designated milks are widely available throughout the area. Happily the sale of loose milk from hand cans has almost disappeared.

#### MILK SAMPLING

Particular attention has been given to the routine sampling of milk as delivered to the public and schools (the latter at the request of the County Medical Officer). Appropriate samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological and biological examination where necessary in order to determine the presence or absence of tuberculosis and Brucella Abortus (organism causing undulant fever in man).

The routine sampling of retailers' supplies shows that 22 samples out of a total of 56 failed bacteriologically, the majority of failures being from ungraded supplies. It is also worthy of note that 6 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk out of 12 failed the prescribed tests. Biological examination of these supplies revealed tuberculosis in 3 samples (3.6%) and Brucella abortus in 1 sample (1.2%). As a result two diversion orders were made under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, requiring the milk to be heat treated before sale and in all cases

MILK SAMPLING 1951

Category	Bacteriological Examination			Biological Examination			
	Samples Taken	No. Passing Test	No. Failing	No. of Samples Submitted	Free from Infection	Positive T. B.	Brucella Abortus
<u>ROUTINE SAMPLING</u>							
Tuberculin Tested	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Accredited	12	6	6	14	14	-	-
Pasteurised	-	-	-	15	15	-	-
Ungraded	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
	41	25	16	53	49	3	1
Totals	56	34	22	82	78	3	1
<u>SCHOOL MILKS</u>							
Tuberculin Tested	22	18	4	37	33	1	3
T.T. (Pasteurised)	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised	80	79	1	-	-	-	-
Sterilized	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	106	101	5	37	33	1	3
<u>ADDITIONAL SAMPLING AFTER UNSATISFACTORY SCHOOL SAMPLES (AT FARMS)</u>							
	-	-	-	60	-	-	10
TOTAL OF ALL SAMPLES	162	135	27	179	111	4	14

the infected animals were traced by the Veterinary Officers and removed from the herds or slaughtered.

School milk samples revealed little trouble bacteriologically only one sample of Pasteurised milk failing the prescribed test and 4 out of 22 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk (18%). One sample from a Tuberculin Tested (attested) herd however, was found to be infected with tuberculosis. An alternative supply was found immediately for the school and the Veterinary Officers subsequently traced the infected animals which were removed from the herd. The 3 samples infected with organisms of Brucella abortus were from 2 herds supplying schools. In one case a diversion order was made requiring the milk to be heat treated pending further investigation on the farm during which group samples were taken from the herd. (see table on page 51, column 4). The source of infection was finally traced to 3 cows which were removed from the herd and subsequent samples proved negative. In the case of the other herd, similar investigations were carried out but without result. Subsequent samples proved negative.

Sampling is carried out in close co-operation with the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry's Animal Health Division and the Public Health Laboratory Service, thereby ensuring that the work of the department is directed to the best advantage.

#### BAKEHOUSES

Number of bakehouses on register	20
Inspections recorded	60

The bakehouses in the area are small family ones and the general standard is good. The advent of the cut and wrapped loaf together with the sale of bread at local village stores (supplied by large concerns outside the area) has resulted in a serious deterioration in the trade of the small bakers. Three bakehouses have closed during the year and new premises are in course of construction to replace one unsatisfactory bakehouse. In addition the following improvements have been noted:-

Premises redecorated and walls improved etc.	5
New sanitary accommodation and/or drainage	1
New storage accommodation	1
New ovens, dough machines etc.	2
New fittings	1
New delivery vans	1



Three bakeries now operate bread slicing and wrapping machines. Of the 20 premises now on the register 8 are either of recent construction or have been substantially reconstructed during the last few years.

PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES (Section 14. Food and Drugs Act, 1938)

Total number on register 31.12.51. - 109 Visits paid 179

Manufacturers of sausages etc.	24	"	"	58
Fish Fryers	7	"	"	14
Sale only of ice cream	77	"	"	105
Tripe dressing and boiling	1	"	"	2

The general standard of these premises is satisfactory as a result of the action that has been taken since 1946. Particular attention has been given to the provision and use of adequate washing facilities. Once again no notified case of food poisoning has occurred attributable to food prepared in the district. As a result of informal action the following improvements were effected during the year.

Sausage making premises:-

Structural improvements	1
Premises redecorated	4
New machinery	1

Fish frying premises:-

Mains water laid on	1
Structural repairs	1
New refrigerator installed	1

Ice cream premises (sale only):-

Structural improvements	2
New sanitary accommodation	1
New drainage	2
New refrigerators, service cabinets and fittings	5
Premises redecorated	10

There are no premises in the area registered for the manufacture of ice cream and the sale of loose ice cream has virtually disappeared in favour of the prepacked article. The number of itinerant vendors has also decreased substantially with the increased sales from local shops. The requirements of the Act are strictly enforced, particular regard being had to the provision of

adequate washing facilities. No formal action was necessary during the year under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. The following table shows the results of sampling during the year:-

Ice Cream Samples from Retailers, 1951

Total samples taken	60
Samples in Category 1	27
Samples in Category 2	18
Samples in Category 3	6
Samples in Category 4	9

These results show a slight improvement on those for 1950 as 45 out of 60 samples (75%) fell within Categories 1 and 2, 6 samples (10%) within Category 3 and 9 samples (15%) within category 4. Of these latter 9 unsatisfactory samples 6 were of ice cream supplied by two local firms in Cambridge. With the co-operation of the public health department of the City considerable improvement was effected in subsequent sampling.

The methylene blue test remains the only criterion of bacteriological cleanliness and it is to be regretted that no statutory standards have yet been adopted.

FOOD SHOPS, CAFES AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Recorded visits during the year were as follows:-

Butcher shops	75
Cafes and restaurants	122
Other food stores, N.A.A.F.I.'s etc.	79
Retail dairies	59
Miscellaneous visits to food shops	171
etc.	

The Council has adopted the Ministry of Food Byelaws and the hygiene of catering establishments continues to be a matter of keen interest to the department. Apart from factory canteens and the school meals service there are few premises catering for large numbers, and the standard to be adopted must bear some relation to this aspect. The fact that mains water supplies are available in all villages is a distinct asset in this direction and the trade has co-operated well. Efforts have been directed towards the provision of a pure water supply, good washing facilities and hygienic storage of perishable foods. The general standard of hygiene is good, although alterations of a structural nature would be an improvement at several transport cafes.

Under existing legislation certain categories of food premises require registration by the local authority. It is very desirable that this provision should be extended to include all catering establishments and it should be a condition of such registration that it is effected before trade is commenced. It is interesting to note that the following catering licences are in force in the area:-

Cafes and restaurants (full catering licences)	18
Cafes (snack licences only)	5
Public Houses (full catering licences)	14
Public Houses (snack licences only)	88
Clubs etc. with full catering licences	9
Clubs (teas and snacks only)	35
Residential establishments (full catering licences)	7
Factory canteens (full catering licences)	13
School canteens (full catering licences)	16
Total number of licences in force	205

As a result of informal action the following improvements have been effected during the year:-

#### Cafes and Restaurants etc.

Structural improvements	3
Mains water laid on	2
New and improved sanitary accommodation	2
Improved lighting or heating	2
New drainage	1
New or improved fittings	3

#### Other Food Premises

New sanitary accommodation	2
Mains water laid on	4
Structural improvements	4
Redecoration	15
New fittings (refrigerators etc.)	4
New drainage	3
Improved or additional storage	1

#### LICENSED PREMISES

Since 1946 particular attention has been given to the standards of these premises, and a very marked improvement has resulted, particularly insofar as sanitary accommodation and glass washing



facilities are concerned. This progress has been encouraged by the stricter attitude of the Licensing Justices and the brewers have cooperated to the fullest extent possible having regard to the present day difficulties associated with building licences and permits etc. The following work has been recorded during the year:-

Total number of licensed premises in the area	154
Number of visits recorded	124
Structural improvements carried out	9
New or improved sanitary accommodation	6
New or improved drainage	6
Mains water laid on	7
Improved glass washing facilities	5
Constant hot water laid on	5
New beer engines, pumps etc.	1
Redecoration (internally and/or externally)	19
Sundry improvements - new dustbins etc.	1

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat for the whole district continues to be supplied from government slaughter houses and depots in Cambridge. The standard of slaughtering is not always as high as one would wish but there has been a marked improvement in the manner in which the meat and offal are transported. Little cause for complaint arose during the year and the services of the department were mainly required to deal with isolated cases of bruising or heating of carcasses not observed at the time of allocation. One or two casualty animals were slaughtered in the area and were subjected to full examination before being transferred for allocation.

Twelve slaughterhouses are licensed for the slaughter of privately owned pigs under permit and routine inspection is carried out where notification is received. No difficulty has been experienced in securing possession and disposal of any diseased meat thereby revealed. It should be noted that unless part of the carcass is intended for sale there is no obligation to notify the time of slaughter.

Very little slaughtering of horses for human consumption has taken place during the year at the one licensed slaughterhouse. (20 horses were killed as against 205 in 1949). One carcass was condemned. There is still no adequate control over this trade since the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 do not apply to horse flesh.

Visits paid to slaughter houses	55
Visits paid to butcher's shops	75
Slaughter houses improved	1
Butcher's shops improved	5

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Licences to slaughter renewed	28
New licences issued	Nil
Total on register 31.12.51.	28

The requirements of the Act with regard to humane slaughter are complied with on all licensed premises and no necessity for action arose during the year. There is, of course, no control over slaughtering on private premises when the animal is not for sale.

### UN SOUND FOODSTUFFS

The amount of unsound foodstuffs found on inspection is small since most articles have been inspected prior to entry into the district. Unsound goods are often returned by traders to the wholesale suppliers where they are dealt with in bulk.

Little disease was encountered in meat, the majority of that condemned being a result of heating or bruising. These conditions are often better dealt with after allocation than in the slaughterhouse. Butchers throughout the area readily seek the advice and assistance of the department where any doubt exists.

The following is an abridged summary of the foodstuffs condemned during the year:-

#### Home Killed Meat

Beef	-	topside and silverside	49 lbs.
Beef	-	head and tongue	21 lbs.
Pork	-	two legs	62 lbs.
Pork	-	two hams and shoulders	59 lbs.
Horseflesh	-	one carcass and all offal.	

#### Imported Meat

Beef	-	miscellaneous trimmings	194 lbs.
Mutton	-	miscellaneous	64 lbs.

#### Tinned Goods

Vegetables	12 tins
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Milk	18 tins
Fruit	17 tins
Soups	3 tins
Fish	6 tins
Meat	34 tins
Miscellaneous	23 tins

#### Other Foods

Sugar	Approx. 100 tons (returned for reprocessing)
Peas	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwt.
Cheese	450 packets
Spaghetti	84 lbs.
Barley	200 lbs.
Beans	120 lbs.
Macaroni	150 lbs.
Cereals - various	120 lbs.

During the year further complaints were received concerning the alleged contamination of crops adjacent to a chemical works. Further investigations were carried out and the results in no way differed from the experience of 1950.





This report has been lithographed  
and bound by the Planning Department  
of the Cambridgeshire County Council.





